NOTE ON COMET *b* 1916 (WOLF).

For the benefit of those following this comet by means of the ephemeris published in the Lick Observatory Bulletin No. 295, I give herewith the results of the comparison of some positions of the comet observed by Professor E. E. Barnard at the Yerkes Observatory with the ephemeris. These comparisons are given in the sense Observation minus Computation (Ephemeris):

1917 Gr. M. T.			Δα	O − C cosδΔα	Δδ
June 9	18h	43m	+1s.7	+1s.6	+11″
July 7	18	11	+3.9	+3.6	+21
July 14	20	13	+4.4	+4.0	+20
Aug. 4	21	25	+6.4	+5.9	+22
Aug. 22	19	41	+7.2	+7.0	+20
Aug. 28	17	4	+7.4	+7.2	+11
Aug. 30	18	59	+7.6	+7.4	+18

Berkeley Astronomical Department,
September 13, 1917. R. T. CRAWFORD.

THE PARALLAX OF THE RING NEBULA IN LYRA (N. G. C. 6720)

Exposures of 25 or 30 minutes on this object, made at the equivalent 80-foot focus of the 60-inch reflector of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, show images of the central star which are well suited to accurate measurement. Fourteen exposures taken from August, 1916, to August, 1917, have been measured and reduced in order to derive the parallax, 9 stars being used for comparison purposes. The result is

$$\text{Relative } \pi = +0''.002 \pm 0''.005.$$

The absolute parallax accordingly would be +0″.004. This value points to enormous dimensions for the nebula itself; the major and minor axes would be 330 and 250 times the diameter of the orbit of *Neptune*. Adopting 14.1 as the visual magnitude of the central star, the parallax found here gives a very low value for its absolute magnitude, viz., +7.1.

In this connection we may recall the results for the planetary nebula N. G. C. 7662, for which 16 Mount Wilson plates gave an absolute parallax of +0″.023. The corresponding diameter of the nebula is 19 times the diameter of the orbit of *Neptune*, and the absolute magnitude of its central star, +9.3.

The first parallax derived for the ring nebula in Lyra was that published by Dr. Newkirk in 1902. His result, derived from 15